

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6, 11, 12, 39, 51 and 52 were currently pending in the application. Claims 1-50 have all been cancelled. New claims 53-58 have been added and recite specific compounds and their respective gadolinium complexes as supported in Examples 1-3 of the Specification, pp. 28-38. These compounds are within the scope of the previously pending claims. Claim 51, which was indicated to be allowable along with claim 52, has been rewritten in independent form as per the Examiner's suggestion. Thus, claim 51-57 are currently pending.

As a result of Applicants' amendments, each of the Examiner's objections and rejections are now moot (although Applicant maintain that they have been traversed for the reasons of record in Applicants' Amendment filed March 2, 2004).

Applicants note that new claims 53-58 are patentable for the same reasons as claims 51-52. Namely, new claims 53-58 each claim a specific compound which is fully supported in the specification (*i.e.*, Examples 1-3, pp. 28-38) and which is not disclosed or suggested by any earlier references, including the reference cited by the Examiner. Additionally, as the Examiner acknowledged, Table I, entries 7, 10-12 on page 41 of the specification discloses that the specific compounds recited in claims 53-58 have relaxivities ranging from 5.4 to 5.9, roughly 35-50% higher than the closed cited prior art (*i.e.*, Society's PA-DO3A having relaxivity of only 4.1). As such, Applicant's specific compounds of new claims 53-58 exhibit an unexpectedly superior result and are patentable over the cited references.

In light of Applicants' arguments and amendments, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 51-58 are in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

No additional fees are believed due. However, if any additional fees are necessary, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 50-0540.

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Respectfully submitted,

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